

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Santa Fe National Forest



For Immediate Release

CONTACT: LAWRENCE LUJAN
(505) 438-7628

May 19, 2006

SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST INCREASES FIRE RESTRICTIONS

(SANTA FE, NM)—For protection and safety due to the very high fire conditions, the Santa Fe National Forest will enter Stage II Fire Restrictions beginning Monday, May 22, at 8 a.m.

Fire restrictions **will apply** to all National Forest lands around Cuba, Coyote, Jemez, Los Alamos, Abiquiu, Española, Santa Fe, Pecos, Las Vegas, and Mora. The Valles Caldera National Preserve will also implement Stage II Restrictions as per Dennis Trujillo, Preserve Manager.

Fire restrictions **will not apply** to Forest wilderness areas — Pecos Wilderness, San Pedro Parks, Dome Wilderness, and Chama River Canyon Wilderness — or the Caja Del Rio Plateau of the Española Ranger District. The Caja Del Rio Plateau will remain out of restrictions because the area's vegetation is sparse and less likely to burn as easy.

People are asked to be cautious when using fire within wilderness areas or the Caja Del Rio Plateau. "Make sure your campfire is dead out before leaving your camping area. When putting a campfire out, drown it with water, stirring with dirt and water until all the fuel is cold to the touch," advised Claudia Standish, Forest WUI & Fire Prevention Specialist.

Stage II Fire Restrictions prohibits the following:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove.
2. Smoking.
3. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device.
4. Using an explosive.
5. Operating a chainsaw, or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine, is prohibited from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. **Firewood gathers are allowed to remove wood from designated areas from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.**
6. Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without spark arresters.
7. Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
8. Possessing or using a motor vehicle off National Forest System roads.

Violation of these regulations are punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both.

For additional fire information on fire activity and restrictions in New Mexico, please visit the Southwest Coordination Center website at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>

